

DIRECTORATE FOR  
QUALITY AND STANDARDS  
IN EDUCATION



DIRECTORATE FOR  
EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICES



**GOZO COLLEGE AWARDS  
FOR**

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP 2010 - 2011**

In collaboration with the  
Art and Craft Centre, **Għajnsielem**

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**Brief note on the meaning of entrepreneurship in educational terms.**

- Entrepreneurship refers to an individual's ability to turn ideas into action;
- It includes creativity, innovation and risk taking;
- As well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives.

Evidence shows that around 20% of participants in mini-company activities such as SCOOPS and YOUNG ENTERPRISE go on to create their own companies in later life after they have completed their studies. Indeed, education in entrepreneurship increases the chances of start-ups and self-employment.

*However, the benefits of entrepreneurship are not limited to start-ups, innovative ventures and new jobs created. ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS A KEY COMPETENCE FOR ALL for it helps young people to be more creative and self-confident in whatever they undertake and to act in a socially responsible way.*

Entrepreneurship is also a key competence for life-long learning, necessary for personal fulfillment, social inclusion, active citizenship and employment.

Alas! Traditionally, formal education in Europe has not been that conducive to entrepreneurship. However, as attitudes and cultural references are implanted at an early age, the education system can greatly contribute to successfully addressing the entrepreneurial challenge within the EU.

Entrepreneurship in Primary and first years of Secondary Education.

As for all competences leading to better management of one's own life, the foundations are laid in the early years of education.

At primary level, nurturing qualities such as creativity and a spirit of initiative helps develop sound entrepreneurial attitudes. *This is best done through active learning based on children's natural curiosity.*

In addition, learning about society should also include early knowledge of and contact with the world of work and business, and an understanding of the role of entrepreneurs, used here in its widest sense, in the community.

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Methods of promoting a more open mindset towards entrepreneurship include *working on projects, role games, simple case studies and visits to local enterprises*. These are activities that support a number of other subjects, and the motivation of those who learn best by doing.

### Entrepreneurship in the later years of Secondary

Entrepreneurial mindsets and skills can best be promoted through *learning by doing* and experiencing entrepreneurship in practice, by means of *practical projects and activities*.

At least, after the age of 14, Secondary Education should raise students' awareness of self-employment and entrepreneurship as options for their future careers. Surely, guidance teachers have a very important role to play in this respect.

The objective of mini-companies run by students at school is that of developing a real economic activity on a small scale or of simulating the way companies work in a realistic way. In the process, students learn how to work in a team, develop a lot of self-confidence and enhance to no small degree their self-esteem.

### **THE AWARDS**

The Gozo College Awards for Entrepreneurship are open to all pupils and students in Gozo, State and non-State.

Heads of school are invited to nominate any of their learners who they think possesses even in embryonic form a sense of entrepreneurship. It could be somebody who has thought of an ingenious invention or a creative/innovative way of doing things or approaching a problem; it could be somebody who knows how to manage a project through its various stages. And so on and so forth.

It is here being recommended that during the coming Celebration Days special prizes for entrepreneurship be given possibly for each year and class in the respective schools. The winners of these prizes could then be nominated for the respective awards.

This year the accent should be on BIODIVERSITY and SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. the idea but also the concrete realization of the idea in a chart, model: something that can also be exhibited for others to appreciate. Arts, crafts, design and technology teachers, to name just a few, can contribute enormously towards the success of this project. Mr Joe Grima and Ms Marvic Refalo can surely be an asset for all schools in this project.

An adjudicating panel will look at all nominations and judge accordingly. A winner will be announced for each of the following four categories:

Category A:	Years 4, 5 and 6;
Category B:	Forms 1 and 2;
Category C:	Forms 3, 4 and 5.

- Prizes will be awarded to **individual winners** in the three categories if the required standards are reached;
- A shield, to be kept for 1 year by the overall winning school, will also be awarded;
- The panel will be looking for authentic efforts by participants;
- For this reason, short-listed participants may be called for an interview by the adjudicating panel;
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

**REMEMBER:**

*the key words and concepts in entrepreneurship are*

- (a) the ability to turn ideas into action,*
- (b) creativity,*
- (c) innovation,*
- (d) risk taking and*
- (e) the ability to plan and manage projects to achieve set objectives.*

Remember also that SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL.

These are also the main criteria on which prospective participants for the Award will be judged.

- Nominations are to be addressed to GOZO COLLEGE Education Office Victoria, attention Ms Doris Cini, by not later than 28 January 2011.

Your cooperation is vital for the success of this initiative which will certainly reap short-, medium- and long-term benefits if brought to fruition.

***Frank Gatt, Gozo College Principal***

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*Tel: 21 55 66 06*  
*Fax: 21 55 80 37*  
*e-mail: frank.gatt@gov.mt*